

SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: August 16, 2011	DATE/TIME ISSUED: August 16/0800
NEXT UPDATE: August 17, 2011	SIGNED: Warren Appelhans

*This is a general fire behavior outlook for the Southern Geographic Area. It is intended to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to assist wildland firefighters with making sound decisions and maintaining situational awareness based on current and expected fire behavior. This outlook is not intended to replace onsite observations or spot weather forecasts issued by the National Weather Service.

Some products provided in the outlook often are not updated prior to posting. Refer to updated information on the Southern Area Coordination Center Website as it becomes available:
<http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/index.htm>

Fire Weather Summary:

Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories

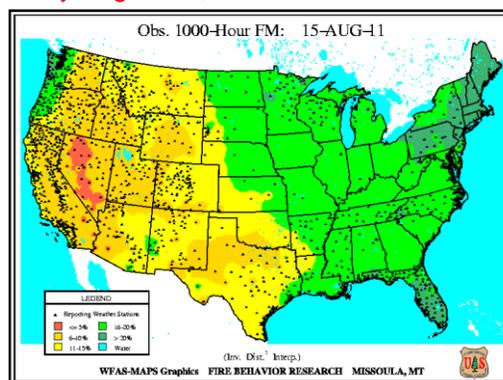
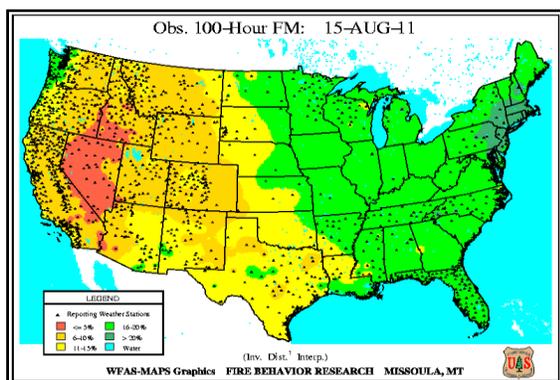
Inland Florida Panhandle for this afternoon into the evening for low relative humidities combined with high ERC values.

- o For complete fire weather information and specific detailed forecasts see:
<http://www.weather.gov>
- o Refer to the MesoWest Regional Surface Maps to access weather observations.
<http://mesowest.utah.edu/index.html>
- o For updated fire danger and fuel moisture values link to:
<http://wfas.net/>

Fuels Conditions:

State of the Fuels will be updated weekly or as the conditions warrant.

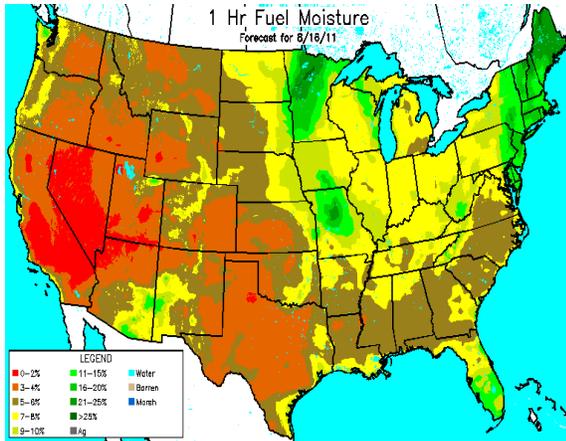
Observed 100 & 1000 Hr FM Monday August 15, 2011



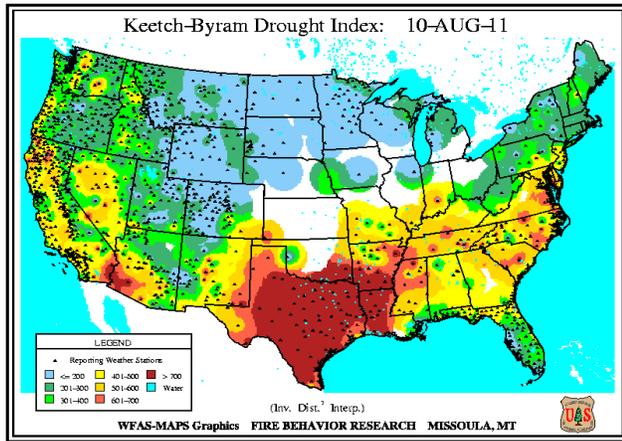
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100 hr and 1000 hr fuel moistures are seeing some recovery from recent rain. Lower fuel moistures it is taking longer to control the fires and extinguish the residual heat in the larger fuels. Recent rain and good humidity recovery will aid in moderating the dry fuels.

WFAS—10 Hour Forecast Fuel Moisture



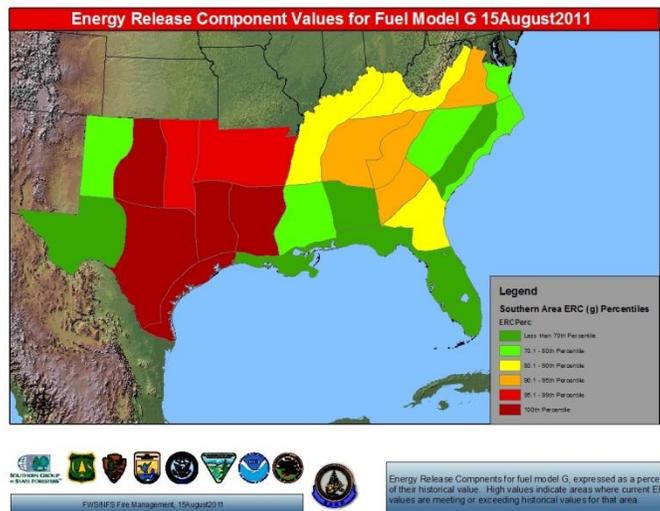
WFAS — KDBI



Southern Area 2 – 24 hour precip, ending August 16, 2011 @ 06:47



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending Aug 15, 2011



Fire Behavior Outlook

In timber stands that have burned watch out for roots burning and trees falling with no warning.

Red Flag Warning for Inland Florida Panhandle

Long durations of low relative humidities combined with high ERC values.

Boundary area of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas

Very High probability of large fire growth. Fires can be fuel and or terrain driven with low wind speeds. Fine fuel moistures continue to be extremely dry. Any new starts have the potential to become a large fire. Winds from thunderstorms could pose control problems.

Southwest Arkansas, Northwest Louisiana and Central and Rolling Plains of Texas

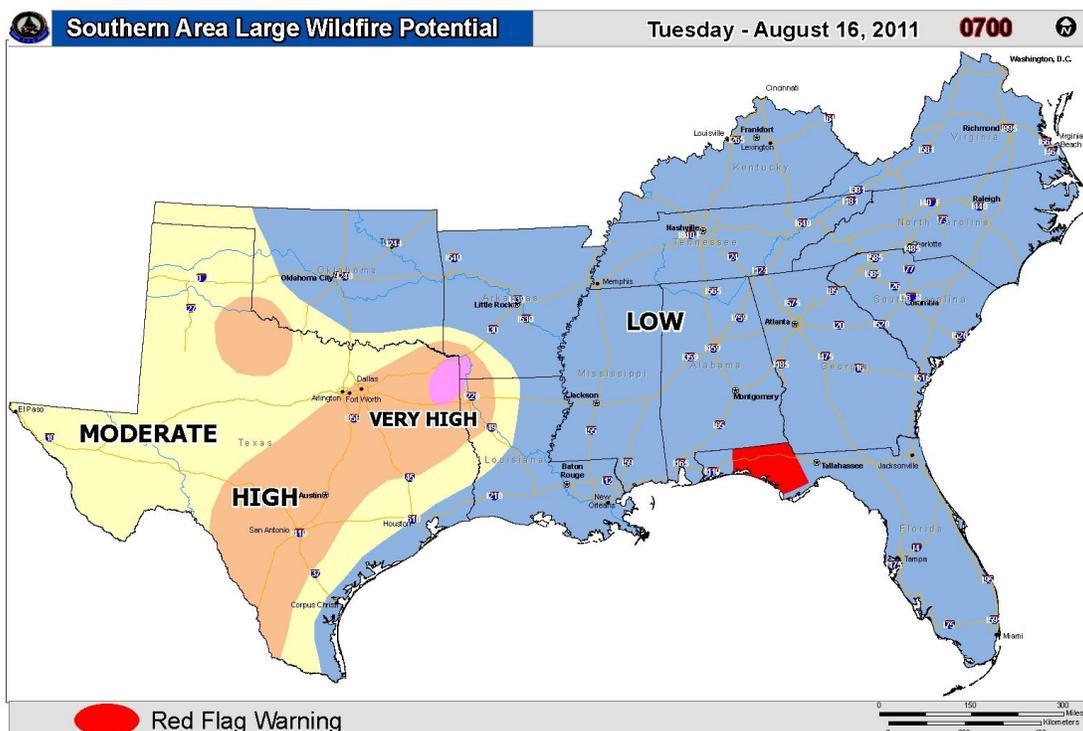
High probability of large fire growth. Like the very high probability areas, the majority of this area has received little to no precipitation for several weeks so live fuels are cured or extremely dry. Low fuel moistures in the larger fuels could increase the intensity of any fires in areas with large ground fuels. Expect to see high rates of spread influence from thunderstorms.

Arkansas, Louisiana and Inland Coastal, Oklahoma Panhandle and West Texas

Moderate fire behavior can be expected today in areas that did not receive significant moisture. Fine fuel moistures are up from the recent rain and many areas have had good RH recovery overnight.

Arkansas, Coastal Region of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Geographic Area East of the Mississippi

Low fire behavior expected. These areas have received enough precipitation over the last several days to moderate ERC and KDBI values. The good RH recovery will help increase the fine fuel moistures. Ignitions may become established but should not spread rapidly.



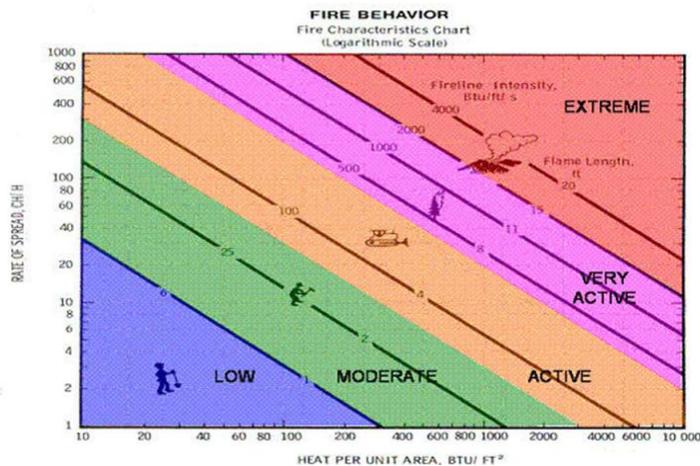
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources applicable to the geographic area scale and is not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather and topography must be used for specific incidents.

FIRE BEHAVIOR INTERPRETATION:

Visual assessment of active flame length and evaluation of potential effectiveness of various resources and capabilities. The implications of observed or expected fire behavior are critical components of suppression strategies and tactics, in particular terms of determining resistance to control, effectiveness and safety of various resources.

FIRE BEHAVIOR ADJECTIVE RATING	FLAME LENGTH (FEET)	INTERPRETATION FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT
LOW	0-4	Generally attack at the head or flanks are successful, handline should hold fire with very little resistant to control.
MODERATE	4-8	Fire is too intense for direct attack at the head. Handline cannot be relied upon, additional support from engine, dozer, tractor plow or air support is needed.
HIGH	8-11	Fire can present control problems; torching, crowning and spotting can be expected. Control efforts at head of fire are often ineffective.
VERY HIGH	11+	Crown runs, intense surface burning and spotting are common; control efforts at head are ineffective.
EXTREME		Although uncommon, can best be described as erratic fire behavior that goes beyond human methods of control or prediction. Rare events such as well developed and sustained fire whirls, independent crowning and plume dominated fire growth.

The Hauling Chart is an excellent tool for measuring safety and potential effectiveness of fireline resources. Additionally, the Hauling Chart is also a useful tool to help firefighters get a perspective on the relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by resistance to line construction by fire behavior.



Outlook:

The Southern Area could see some drying over the next several days increasing fire behavior. Resistant to control will increase as the fuels dry out from the recent rain events.

Stay updated by viewing the Southern area 7 day Significant Fire Potential product:

http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/Fire_Potential.htm

Longer range outlooks reference the Climate Prediction Center link:

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.php>